

Committee: Borough Plan Advisory Committee

Date: 06 October 2010

Agenda item 6

Wards: All

Subject: Merton Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2009/10

Lead officer: Head of Regeneration and Leisure Sustainable Communities, James McGinlay,

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Environment Sustainability and Regeneration, Councillor Andrew Judge,

Forward Plan reference number: 970 (Cabinet); 969 (Council)

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Recommendations:

- A. That Members consider and comment on the first draft of Merton Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2009/10 and
 - B. Recommend to **Cabinet** that the Director for Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment Sustainability and Regeneration, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee be given delegated authority to agree and make any amendments required to Merton's Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2010.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In accordance with the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated regulations, every Local Planning Authority has to submit an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to the Secretary of State by 31 December each year.
- 1.2. It is proposed that the Director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee be given delegated authority by Cabinet to review and approve the final draft of Merton's Annual Monitoring Report prior to its submission to the Secretary of State.
- 1.3. A draft of Merton's Annual Monitoring Report will be sent to Members of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee by Wednesday 06 October 2010, and will be available on Merton's website.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The AMR evaluates performance of planning policies contained in Merton's Unitary Development Plan as well as the progress of the preparation of the LDF over the last financial year (in this case 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010).

Any information relating to a date later than 31 March 2010 will be contained in Merton's next AMR 2010/11.

- 2.2. Appendix 2: Annual Monitoring Report (first draft) 2009/10 will be sent to all Members of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee by Wednesday 06 October 2010. Hard copies will also be available in the Members Resource Room and will be available on Merton Council's website via the Borough Plan Advisory Committee meeting (12th October 2010) at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm>
- 2.3. Information in Merton's AMR is used to inform emerging planning policies, e.g. Merton's Core Strategy, in defending appeals against planning refusals.

Delegated Group to consider and agree Merton's Annual Monitoring Report

- 2.4. Merton's AMR draws on a variety of sources for its information from the Council and its partners (e.g. Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust)
- 2.5. Some of the information especially that provided by the council, is already available and has been included in the draft of the AMR as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 2.6. However, some information from other sources outside Merton Council is not yet available, though it is very relevant to Merton's AMR.
- 2.7. To improve the quality of Merton's AMR, it is important that this information is considered and included where necessary before Merton's AMR is submitted to the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London by 31 December 2010.
- 2.8. The Cabinet meeting held on 07 December 2009 resolved "*That the Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the cabinet member for planning and traffic management, the chair and the vice-chair of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee be given delegated authority to make any amendments required and agree Merton's annual monitoring report for submission*" (decision under Agenda Item 6), minutes of the Cabinet meeting 07 December 2009).
- 2.9. It is therefore proposed that a group comprising the Director for Environment Sustainability and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment Sustainability and Regeneration, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee be given delegated authority to consider and make amendments to the final draft of Merton's AMR prior to its submission to the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London by 31 December 2010.
- 2.10. This means that all relevant information from other sources that could be used to improve the quality of Merton's AMR can be included prior to submission by 31 December 2010.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. It is considered that there isn't a realistic alternative to the current proposal if Merton's AMR is to contain accurate information, especially on housing matters.

- 3.2. If no changes were made to the first draft of the AMR before submission to the Secretary of State, the quality of Merton's AMR would be affected and the information it contains. Merton would not carry out its statutory requirement set out in PPS3.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. In preparing Merton's AMR, many council departments were consulted, including Housing, Development Control, Transport, Environmental Health and Leisure Services. There is also frequent dialogue with outside bodies including the Mayor of London, Transport for London, those involved in the housebuilding industry in Merton, the Environment Agency and local ecologists.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations and section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act outlines the requirements for an Annual Monitoring Report, which must be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of the calendar year.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report. With the withdrawal of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant by May 2010, submission of Merton's AMR no longer attracts grant funding.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and section 35 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 outlines the requirements for an Annual Monitoring Report, which must be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of the calendar year.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1: Merton's Annual Monitoring Report 2009/10 first draft – to be sent to Members of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee by Wednesday 06 October 2010.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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